

TWENTY-FIRST SEASON OF “TGIF JAZZ IN THE PARKS” TEN GREAT CONCERTS IN CARLSBAD

The Carlsbad Cultural Arts Office’s annual “TGIF Jazz in the Parks” series returns for its twenty-first season of free outdoor concerts in Carlsbad parks during the months of June, July and August. Ten TGIF concerts will be held on consecutive Friday evenings, beginning on June 23 and continuing through August 25. All concerts begin at 6 pm and end at 8 pm and are free of charge. Presented by the City’s Cultural Arts Office, the series is produced by Rob Hagey Productions, Inc.

The 2006 line-up includes eight nationally acclaimed ensembles making their debuts at TGIF and two crowd-pleasing bands making repeat appearances. The highly popular series – which is known for its exceptional quality and for its broad range of jazz and blues styles -- now attracts audiences numbering almost 4,000 to each concert. “To say we’re ‘jazzed’ by this year’s line-up is a real understatement,” says Arts Manager Peter Gordon. “Rob Hagey has done it again for us! These are all top-notch musicians, nationally recognized. And we love the variety of musical styles in this year’s line-up: there’s zydeco, salsa, big band swing, and of course, a lot of blues. We expect another truly great season of music. And a lot of dancing!”

The first **four** concerts take place on June 23, June 30, July 7, and July 14 at **Stagecoach Park**, 3420 Camino de los Coches, at La Costa Avenue and Rancho Santa Fe Road. Free shuttle service is available between 5 and 9 pm from La Costa Canyon High School.

June 23 – Geno Delafosse and French Rockin’ Boogie: Zydeco From the depths of the Louisiana bayou, this group serves up tasty, traditional Creole zydeco. In the hands of Geno Delafosse, the accordion becomes a force of nature.

June 30 – Emeline Michel: Caribbean “The Queen of Haitian song” combines the traditional rhythms of her native island with lush arrangements of guitars, congas and saxophones to create a unique Caribbean sound. Michel’s impassioned songwriting, musical ingenuity, and melodious voice have brought Haitian music to international attention and admiration.

July 8 – Rod Piazza and the Mighty Flyers: West Coast Blues Elwood Blues calls Rod Piazza and The Might Flyers “one of the great blues bands of the nation” – and TGIF Jazz audiences who heard Piazza perform last year would certainly agree. In fact, they’re STILL talking about that performance. The Mighty Flyers create the perfect setting for Piazza’s passionate and soaring harmonica and vocal work.

July 14 – Urban Jazz Coalition: Smooth Jazz A new force in contemporary jazz, UJC’s synergy of jazz, R&B, and Latin elements, presented with energy and impeccable musicianship, make for a MUST SEE live show. It’s hard to tell who is having more fun at a UJC concert -- the audience or the band!

TGIF moves to **Poinsettia Park** on Hidden Valley Road for two concerts on July 21 and July 28. Free shuttle service will operate between 5 and 9 pm from Pacific Rim School at the corner of Hidden Valley Road & Camino de los Ondes.

July 21 – Janiva Magness: Blues This soulful blues chanteuse has won the W.C. Handy, the Maple Blues, and the B.B. King Vocalist awards with her smoky power and pitch-perfect emotion. Billboard writes “Magness carves out a niche by singing the blues with maturity and sophistication.”

July 28 – Lady Dottie & the Diamonds: Blues A San Diego supergroup of “one 102-year-old lady” and four young, indie musicians. Take it from Dottie: “Old, young, we’re all in this together. You can bring your mama to our show and she’ll have a good time. Happiness shouldn’t cost you a dime.” (And she’s not really 102 years old...then again, she’s not 28 either.)

Calavera Hills Park, site of the final four concerts, is located at the corner of Carlsbad Village Drive and Glasgow Drive. The concerts are on August 4, August 11, August 18 and August 25. Free shuttle service will operate between 5 and 9 pm from Hope School, 3010 Tamarack Drive and from Calavera Hills Middle School, 4100 Tamarack Drive.

August 4 – Big Time Operator: Swing From the first mellow notes of “Come Fly with Me” to the last crescendo of “Sing, Sing, Sing” this ten-piece group led by vocalist Warren Lovell owns the park. San Diego’s favorite “little big band” boasts unbeatable horn and rhythm sections, and 2006 marks Big Time Operator’s ninth appearance at TGIF Jazz – a house record.

August 11 – Brave Combo: Eclectic One of America’s top dance bands, this rollicking jazz quintet spins new gold from oldies across the full range of popular music. Billboard, the music industry’s top magazine, calls it “world wise, unclassifiable music.”

August 18 – Coco Montoya: Blues Over the course of his 30-year career, guitarist and vocalist Coco Montoya, propelled by explosive guitar playing and a soul-driven voice, has steadily risen to the upper reaches of the blues-rock world. Billboard again: “In a world of blues guitar pretenders, Coco Montoya is the real McCoy. Be prepared to get scorched.”

August 25 – Plena Libre: Latin Salsa This powerhouse big band from the heart of Puerto Rico specializes in brilliant arrangements, jazzy trombone-powered harmonies and compelling, up-tempo dance rhythms. Just the right note for the grand finale to the 2006 TGIF Jazz in the Parks season.

Concerts begin promptly at 6 pm and end at 8 pm. Patrons should bring their own blankets and low-back beach chairs. Many patrons bring picnics; the Carlsbad Boy Scouts, Carlsbad High School Band Boosters and Java Break Express also sell light refreshments. Intermission opportunity drawings are conducted by the Carlsbad Friends of the Arts to raise funds for the concert series. Pets are not allowed at TGIF Jazz in the Parks and owners bringing pets to the concert will be ticketed. Bikes, skateboards and roller blades are not allowed in the parks during concerts. For more information on TGIF Jazz concerts, please use the City of Carlsbad website: www.carlsbad.gov/arts. Or call the Carlsbad Arts Office Info Line at (760) 434-2904.